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POLICIES OF APARTHEID OF THE
GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH AFRICA

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-third year

Letter dated 22 March 1988 from the Acting Chairman of the Special Committee against Apartheid addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of the Appeal adopted by the Seminar on the Role of the Latin American and Caribbean Media in the International Campaign against Apartheid which was held at Lima, Peru, from 7 to 9 March 1988 (see annex).

The Seminar was organized by the United Nations in co-operation with the Government of Peru.

I should be grateful if the Appeal could be issued as a document of the General Assembly, under item 33 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Guennadi I. OUDOVENKO
Acting Chairman of the
Special Committee against Apartheid

* A/43/50.

ANNEX

Appeal adopted on 9 March 1988 by the Seminar on the Role of Latin American and Caribbean Media in the International Campaign against Apartheid, held at Lima, Peru, from 7 to 9 March 1988

1. The Seminar on the Role of the Latin American and Caribbean Media in the International Campaign against Apartheid, organized by the United Nations Special Committee against Apartheid in co-operation with the Government of Peru, was held in Lima, Peru from 7 to 9 March 1988.
2. The participants in the Seminar included journalists from Latin America and the Caribbean, representatives of the national liberation movements of South Africa and Namibia, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, as well as a number of experts and special guests.
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3. Participants in the Seminar were of the firm view that apartheid, a matter of concern to the international community for forty years this May, now, more than ever, presents an urgent and pressing challenge to humanity. The permanent and unjustified state of emergency in South Africa used for the brutal repression of the black majority, including even children, as well as of all other opponents of apartheid in South Africa, has created a grave situation in that country. Unable to suppress the resistance, the racist régime in Pretoria has severely restricted organizations such as UDF, AZAPO and many other anti-apartheid mass interest and pressure groups*, which are striving by peaceful means, despite repression, for the elimination of apartheid. It has severely restricted the activities of the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU). This constitutes a severe blow to the possibilities of a peaceful resolution of the South African conflict.
4. The international community must take all necessary action to avert a disastrous conflict and secure an end to repression and apartheid. The few powerful Governments which have stubbornly resisted effective international action against apartheid bear a grave responsibility. They must be confronted with increased international pressure and demand to abandon their collaboration with and equivocation over apartheid and join in international action against apartheid under the auspices of the United Nations. These Governments must desist from giving priority to their narrow and selfish economic interest over the necessity of championing the human rights of the people of South Africa.

* Seventeen organizations and eighteen individuals were included in the recent restriction order promulgated by the racist régime.

5. After a careful analysis of the situation in South Africa over the past four decades, participants at the Seminar supported the view that apartheid, the system of institutionalized racism, is a crime against humanity. The racist régime of South Africa has, moreover, continued its illegal occupation of Namibia for which the United Nations has assumed direct responsibility. It has been carrying on a colonial war of genocide against the people of that Territory. It has committed incessant aggression and destabilization against the neighbouring independent African States, especially against the People's Republic of Angola, using Namibia as a springboard and causing enormous human and material damage. Towards that end the racist régime continues to use surrogate groups, such as RENAMO and UNITA bandits, in addition to its own troops.

6. Apartheid is also a threat to international peace and security. It must be destroyed. It cannot be reformed. The struggle of the people of South Africa for the full exercise of their right to self-determination in an unfragmented, non-racial and democratic society and the struggle of the people of Namibia for genuine national independence are legitimate and deserve the support of all Governments, organizations and individuals.

7. The media has a special responsibility to shape and to sensitize international public opinion to the grave situation in South Africa, Namibia and in southern Africa as a whole. It must promote effective support for both the struggling people of South Africa and Namibia for liberation, and for the Front-line States. This responsibility is rendered all the more significant by the stringent censorship recently imposed by the Pretoria régime, to prevent the free and unfettered flow of information on the inhuman repression and violence against them, including detention and torture of thousands of children. The media must, therefore, expose and counteract the vicious propaganda by the racist régime and its friends against the liberation struggle.

8. The Seminar participants condemn the continued detention, persecution and harassment of media workers in South Africa, reaffirm their solidarity with the fellow South African media workers and reiterate their firm stand on the principles of freedom of the press and association.

9. The Seminar recognizes the crucial role that can be played by international news media in combating the strict censorship imposed on the mass media by the racist régime.

10. In this context, the Seminar appreciates the positive response of the great majority of Latin American and Caribbean countries to the international campaign against apartheid, based on their own solidarity with and commitment to the just cause and also inspired by the historical nature of their multiracial societies.

11. For these reasons, the Seminar strongly appeals to the news media, non-governmental organizations, labour unions, individual journalists and writers in Latin America and the Caribbean, consistent with their respect for the freedom of expression, to carry out the following:

A. To increase their active participation in the information campaign to further raise the consciousness of international public opinion regarding the true facts about the criminal apartheid régime in South Africa and occupied Namibia;

B. To help broaden the consensus on the need for effective international

action to totally eradicate the obnoxious system of apartheid and to secure Namibia's immediate independence;

- C. To widely publicize and reaffirm the legitimacy of the struggle of the South African and Namibian peoples, and to assist them in the dissemination of information;
- D. To publicize all activities carried out by Governments, non-governmental organizations and individuals in support of the international struggle against apartheid;
- E. To co-operate with each other, with the United Nations, and in particular the Special Committee against Apartheid as well as with the United Nations Information Centres in publicizing international action against apartheid;
- F. To report comprehensively all violations of freedom of expression and communication in South Africa and Namibia and give all possible support to journalists working in South Africa and Namibia who are subjected to the régime's repression;
- G. To mobilize concerted action by the international media to secure the immediate release of Zwelakhe Sisulu and other media workers in detention since the declaration of the state of emergency;
- H. To fully expose and denounce the vicious propaganda of the apartheid régime as well as the groups and transnational corporations that promote the interests of the apartheid régime in other countries. Clear attention must be drawn to all attempts by the racist régime to slander the liberation movements and to distort information on the aggression and destabilization of Front-line and other independent African States in the region;
- I. To investigate and expose all incidents of collaboration with the Pretoria régime by Governments, transnational corporations or other groups in violation of pertinent United Nations resolutions;
- J. To adequately publicize the observance of international commemorative events relating to the struggle in South Africa and Namibia;
- K. To promote the establishment and operation of national and regional anti-apartheid groups of writers and journalists for the purpose of enhancing the role played by Latin American and Caribbean communicators in the international campaign against apartheid.

12. The Seminar participants reaffirm their full support for the legitimate struggle being waged by the national liberation movements and other anti-apartheid forces inside South Africa. They call for a concerted international action, including the adoption of comprehensive mandatory sanctions against Pretoria, to bring about the eradication of apartheid.

13. The Seminar expressed its firm solidarity with the people of Namibia in their heroic struggle for national liberation under the leadership of SWAPO its sole and authentic representative and issues a call for increased international media assistance to the Namibia Press Agency (NAMPA), the news agency of SWAPO, in order to enable it to carry out its functions effectively.

RESOLUTION I

The participants in the Seminar,

Underscoring the importance of the role of Peru in the international struggle against apartheid through its memberships in the Special Committee against Apartheid, its chairmanship of the Task Force on Political Prisoners, its presidency of the United World Conference on Sanctions against Racist South Africa and its participation in the Africa Fund,

Taking note of Peru's unwavering support for, and solidarity with, the peoples of South Africa and Namibia,

Express their appreciation to the people and Government of Peru for having hosted the Seminar and for the warm hospitality extended to all participants, and their homage to President Alan Garcia for his outstanding performance in the anti-racist struggle and for his solidarity with the African peoples.

Adopted on 9 March 1988

RESOLUTION II

The Latin American and Caribbean journalists participating in the Seminar

Express their collegial solidarity with the journalists in South Africa, particularly those of the alternative press, who are being subjected to mounting harassment, persecution and detentions by the apartheid régime;

Salute the courage and determination of their South African colleagues;

Pledge their moral support and their assistance to the valiant struggle of their South African fellow journalists.

Adopted on 9 March 1988